GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2545
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2002
SETTING UP OF HIGHER EDUCATION CENTRES IN RURAL AREAS
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of lack of higher education and its low standard in the rural areas of the country; (b if so, whether the Government are considering to draw up comprehensive plan to set up higher education centers in the rural areas to train the aspiring students to compete for higher jobs with urban candidates;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) to (d) At present, there are 246 universities and university- level institutions and nearly 11,400 colleges in the country. In addition, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and State Open Universities are also offering courses in various disciplines through the distance education mode. Thus, opportunities for higher education are available in every part of the country.

Besides, the University Grants Commission is providing grants to universities/colleges under the scheme of Coaching Classes for Competitive Examinations for Weaker Sections towards remedial coaching, coaching for Group B and C level posts, coaching for All India Services and NET examinations. Under the `scheme for providing assistance to colleges for development`, UGC, with a view to removing disparities and regional imbalances, is providing assistance to the colleges catering to the needs of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students and colleges situated in backward/rural/border areas.